

Message Text

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TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY WARSAW PRIORITY
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 083810

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, UNSC, LE

SUBJECT: EASTERN EUROPEAN PARTICIPATION IN UNIFIL

REF: A) USUN 1107; B) TEL AVIV 4202; C) USUN 1180

1. REFTELS REPORT UN SECRETARIAT AND LEBANESE INTEREST IN
THE POSSIBILITY OF SOME KIND OF EASTERN EUROPEAN PARTICI-
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PATION IN UNIFIL. WE RECOGNIZE THAT ISRAEL MIGHT HAVE
OBJECTIONS TO THE IDEA BUT BELIEVE THAT IN ANY CASE IT
SHOULD BE EXPLORED FURTHER. IN DEPARTMENT'S VIEW, INITIAL
APPROACH TO ISRAELIS SHOULD BE MADE BY UN SECRETARIAT,
PERHAPS IN SIILASVUO-WEIZMAN CHANNEL.

2. IN APPROACHING SECRETARIAT USUN SHOULD NOTE THAT WHILE

WE HAVE DISCUSSED CONTINGENCIES FOR EE PARTICIPATION WITHIN
USG AND CONSULTED OUR EMBASSY IN TEL AVIV, WE HAVE NOT
RAISED SUBJECT DIRECTLY WITH ISRAELIS. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER,
THAT THE FOLLOWING CONSIDERATIONS MIGHT ARGUE FOR A GUARDEDLY
POSITIVE ISRAELI RESPONSE PROVIDED THAT IT IS CLEAR THAT AN
EE ROLE WOULD BE LARGELY SYMBOLIC.

-- EE PARTICIPATION MIGHT CONTRIBUTE TO VIABILITY OF UNIFIL
BY PROJECTING IMAGE OF AN OPERATION SUPPORTED BY ALL AND
ENHANCE THE POSSIBILITY OF GAINING ACCEPTANCE OF PRINCIPLE

OF COLLECTIVE FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY.

-- CAREFULLY CHOSEN EE PARTICIPATION MIGHT HELP WITH
SECURITY PROBLEMS. A LOGISTICS UNIT IN THE AREA AROUND
BEIRUT OR RAYAQ AIRPORTS COULD HELP INSURE THAT PALES-
TINIANS DO NOT ATTEMPT TO INTERDICT INCOMING SUPPLIES.
IF A SEABORNE SUPPLY ROUTE IS ESTABLISHED THROUGH TYRE,
EE LOGISTIC TROOPS IN THE AREA COULD HELP GAIN A UNIFIL
ENTREE AND CUT DOWN ON THE POSSIBILITY OF PLO ATTACKS
AGAINST UN UNITS.

3. OUR BEST ESTIMATE IS THAT ISRAELIS WOULD HAVE LEAST
TROUBLE WITH A POLISH LOGISTICS UNIT WHICH COULD BE SEEN
SIMPLY AS AN EXTENSION OF POLISH ROLE IN UNEF. A SMALL
PRESENCE AT RAYAQ OR BEIRUT AIRPORTS, DEPENDING ON WHERE
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NEW CONTINGENTS ARE TO BE ARRIVING, MIGHT BE EASIEST FOR
ISRAELIS TO ACCEPT. LATER, SOME COULD MOVE TO TYRE. A
HUNGARIAN UNIT MIGHT ALSO BE A POSSIBILITY, WITH CZECHS
AND EAST GERMANS, AND OF COURSE SOVIETS, LEAST LIKELY TO
BE ACCEPTABLE AS INDICATED REF C.

4. GIVEN THE SOVIET POSITION ON THE URGENCY OF ISRAELI
WITHDRAWAL WE DOUBT THAT ANY EE WOULD ACCEPT AN INVITATION
TO PARTICIPATE AS LONG AS IDF REMAINS ON LEBANON TERRITORY.
THIS DOES NOT, HOWEVER, ARGUE AGAINST AN APPROACH TO THEM
NOW.

5. IF UN WISHES, WE WOULD BE WILLING TO FOLLOW UP THEIR
APPROACH TO GOI. COOPER

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